

Chapter 12

Grade Eight – United States History and Geography: Growth and Conflict

- What did freedom mean to the nation’s founders and how did it change over time?
- How and why did the United States expand?
- Who is considered an American?

The eighth grade course of study begins with an intensive review of the major ideas, issues, and events that shaped the founding of the nation. In their study of this era, students will view American history through the lens of a people who were trying—and are still trying—to fulfill the promise of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Throughout their eighth grade United States history and geography course, students will confront the themes of freedom, equality, and liberty and their changing definitions over time. This course will also explore the geography of place, movement, and region, starting with the Atlantic Seaboard and then exploring American westward expansion and economic development, the Civil War and Reconstruction, and finally, industrialization. Covering parts of three centuries, the historical content outlined in this chapter is both substantial and substantive, which poses a significant challenge for teachers, with limited time for in-depth study. In order to address this challenge, this chapter is organized into four large sections that incorporate relevant

questions that can help students understand how individual events and people comprise a larger narrative explanation of our past.

As students learn American history from the late 1700s through the end of the nineteenth century, they will develop reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills that will enhance their understanding of the content. As in earlier grades, students should be taught that history is an investigative discipline, one that is continually reshaped based on primary-source research and on new perspectives that can be uncovered. Students should be encouraged to read multiple primary and secondary documents; to understand multiple perspectives; to learn about how some things change over time and others tend not to; and they should appreciate that each historical era has its own context and it is up to the student of history to make sense of the past on these terms and by asking questions about it.

The Development of American Constitutional Democracy

- Why was there an American Revolution?
- How did the American Revolution develop the concept of natural rights?
- What were the legacies of the American Revolution?

Roots of the American Revolution

This year's study of American history begins with a selective review of how the nation was constructed, informed by what students remember from their fifth grade study of early American history, which included consideration of the colonial period, the American Revolution, and the early republic. Students can

begin their eighth grade studies with a brief review of the significant developments of the colonial era; the creation of a colonial economy based on agriculture, commerce, and small-scale manufacturing; and the persistence of regional differences in the British North Atlantic Colonies.

Considering the question **Why was there an American Revolution?** guides students' review of these years. Students can begin with a survey of the major events and ideas leading to the American War for Independence that they studied in fifth grade, by building an online timeline that includes basic descriptions of events as well as written analyses of each event's significance. Students can consider, for example, the Great Awakening, which affected many Americans. In emotional sermons, ministers offered a more egalitarian relationship between believers and their God that appealed to many races and classes. Excerpts from primary source documents, such as sermons by George Whitefield and Jonathan Edwards, demonstrate for students how the Great Awakening influenced the development of revolutionary fervor and morality. Students also consider the impact of the Seven Years' War, known in the colonies as the French and Indian War, on the colonists' feelings toward the British crown. Prior to the war, American colonists lived in relative isolation from British soldiers and were generally content with British rule. After the war, the colonists became increasingly resentful of the continued presence of British troops (including soldiers who exhibited what some colonists considered to be coarse behavior)—a daily reminder of their mother colony in their homeland. The colonists were even more angry with the British government's attempts to collect

revenue from the colony to help pay for the war and the Crown's prohibition against colonial expansion to the west. Students may want to investigate why, specifically, British actions were considered to be unreasonable by the colonists and how the imposition of British law came to be viewed as increasingly oppressive. [Students will discover how British legislation affect the livelihood of different groups within the colonies.](#) Taken together, the continued presence of the British military and the imposition of new taxes fueled colonial resentment and helped establish the new American consciousness. This new American identity expanded further with the growth of more densely populated and diverse cities like Philadelphia and Boston where colonists started to notice how their economic, political, and even social interests with one another seemed more aligned than their interests with Great Britain. Men like Thomas Paine wrote down these developments, and soon organizations such as the Committees of Correspondence communicated them throughout the colonies.

Principles of the American Revolution

On July 4, 1776, delegates at the second Constitutional Convention signed the Declaration of Independence, officially asserting the colonies' separation from Great Britain. Students might engage in activity in which they compare the preambles of the Declaration of Independence between the first and second (or final) drafts. Doing a close reading sentence deconstruction of this important preamble will highlight for students that the differences between the first and second drafts were intended to unify the colonies as one new nation in opposition to Great Britain. Students might also fully explore the grievances against Great

Britain and they should trace the broad principle of natural rights threaded throughout it. They can consider the question: **How did the American Revolution develop the concept of natural rights?** Students can analyze what Thomas Jefferson meant when he wrote that “all men are created equal” and “endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights.” To deepen student understanding of these foundational arguments, teachers employ classroom debates and town hall meeting activities where students define and defend the arguments of the framers.

Once students understand the principles of the American Revolution as outlined in the Declaration of Independence, they briefly survey the major turning points in the war, its key leaders, people that fought in it, and how the war touched the lives of nearly everyone in the colonies. They might trace the roles of key leaders in the war and explore how they went on to lead the new nation: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, James Madison, and Alexander Hamilton. They can revisit their fifth-grade studies of how the principles of the American Revolution (especially natural rights of freedom and the opportunity for democracy) motivated African-Americans – both free and unfree – to try to secure them for all by their service in the war itself.

The American colonial struggle for independence occurred in a global context. The following questions can help students consider the perspectives of those that did not serve in either the Continental or British armies: How [and why](#) did Indians participate in the American Revolution? How did the alliances and treaties made by American Indians affect their relationships with both the Patriots

and the British? How did American calls for independence inspire other nations, such as France and the French colony of Haiti? Students learn both about the significance that the American Revolution had for other nations and also the pivotal role played by other nations in affecting the course of the war.

Legacies of the American Revolution

With the American victory over the British, the new nation struggled to define how the principles upon which the Revolution was fought would become law and be applied to the new nation. The following question can frame students' understanding of the aftermath of the Revolution: **What were the legacies of the American Revolution?** Students can learn that many historical documents and ideas influenced the Framers of the Constitution as they attempted to translate the Revolutionary principles to reality. For example, students may review the context by synthesizing the major ideas of the Enlightenment and the origins of constitutional and self-government in the Magna Carta, the English Bill of Rights of 1689, [Adam Smith's Wealth of Nations](#), the Mayflower Compact, the Virginia House of Burgesses, and New England town hall meetings.

Students should also learn about the challenges and multiple attempts that it took to form a stable government; the Articles of Confederation, for example, taught leaders in America the importance of a centralized government. The Articles of Confederation were the first attempt to create a federal government for the thirteen autonomous states that had freed themselves from British rule. The Articles provided a governing structure for the United States during the Revolutionary War, but quickly proved to be inadequate for the needs of the new

nation. The Articles, which were finally ratified by all thirteen states in 1781, enabled the new country to fight the Revolutionary War, negotiate with foreign powers, and expand to the west. However, the Articles established a weak central government, one that lacked an executive branch and a national judiciary. Under the Articles, Congress also couldn't regulate commerce or even force the individual states to contribute to the national treasury. Given the absence of a strong central government and as a result, its inability to respond to domestic crises, such as Shays' Rebellion in Massachusetts, and enforce a coherent and united foreign policy, national leaders began to call for a new governmental structure. Because of their experience, the Framers aimed to create a government that was neither too strong (because it might turn into despotism, or at the very least look too similar to the British monarchy) or too weak (as the Articles of Confederation proved to be).

In order to understand the process by which the Constitution was created through speeches, discussions, debate, and drafting, students can read a number of different documents and engage in a variety of activities to bring these important conventions to life. For one, students can study the men who attended the Constitutional Conventions. They can select one Framer to study in depth. As part of the study, students can be assigned a biography and/or they can identify two or three primary sources produced by him; collect evidence from the sources; chart information about his background, education, wealth, and values that he brought to the convention; and make claims about how his background influenced the positions he would take at the Constitutional Conventions. In

addition to learning about the Constitutional Convention through the eyes of the Framers, students can read, discuss, and analyze excerpts from the document written at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. Students should consider topics that divided the Founding Fathers and examine compromises they adopted to produce a unifying document. Several compromises preserved the institution of slavery, namely, the three-fifths rule of representation, the slave importation clause, and the fugitive slave clause. Students can explore quantitative information about where slaves lived and the work they did to determine: why were slave-holding provisions so important to southern delegates? Students can also wrestle with a question faced by some Founding Fathers: How could the nation's ideals of freedom, liberty, and democracy be adopted alongside slavery? With careful guidance from the teacher, students can speculate about: what were the long-term costs of slavery, both to people of African descent and to the nation at large? In addition, students discuss the status of women in this era, particularly with regards to voting and the ownership of property. While political rights for women were not advocated by Founding Fathers, some women, such as Abigail Adams, wrote explicitly about how women's interests, especially as mothers, needed to be considered by male leaders.

Beyond learning about the process by which the Constitution was created, students recognize the great achievements of the Constitution: (1) it created a republican form of government based on the consent of the governed—a bold new experiment; and (2) it established a government that has survived more than

200 years by a delicate balancing of power and interests through a system of checks and balances based on the separation of powers into three branches of government, and a Bill of Rights designed to protect individual liberties from federal government overreach; (3) [it created a unified market and economic climate which facilitated the nation's economic development.](#) and (34) it provided an amendment process to adapt the Constitution to the needs of a changing society. Students study how the Constitution provided for the participation of citizens in the political process. However, teachers should also place special emphasis on who was actually allowed to participate during this period in United States history. Explaining the role of property ownership in voter and office-holding requirements can familiarize students with the limits of republican government during this period and foreshadow efforts to expand citizenship rights in the years to come. Websites such as icivics.org, constitutioncenter.org, or congress.gov contain activities, games, and film clips that appropriately describe the enduring significance of the Constitution and the law-making process.

[Much of the constitutional history of the United States during the early republic is the history of state and federal laws and Supreme Court decisions that affected the nascent national economy. Supreme Court decisions during the terms of Chief Justices John Marshall \(1803 -1835\) and Roger B. Taney \(1836 - 1864\) promoted economic development by holding states to their contractual promises, \(Fletcher v. Peck \(1810\)\); ruling that the contract clause of the Constitution protected private corporations from state interference \(Dartmouth](#)

[College v. Woodward \(1819\)\). In the case of Gibbons v. Ogden \(1824\), the Marshall's Supreme Court held that the commerce clause of the Constitution gave Congress, not the states, the power to establish regulations for commerce among the states. Gibbons established a national free-trade zone throughout the United States, allowing merchants to ship goods into and through various states without obstruction from the states. States could still regulate intrastate commerce \(commerce wholly within their borders\), but trade of this nature became less important as the national market economy expanded over the course of the nineteenth century.](#)

In addition to their examination of the Constitution itself, students consider the civil liberties outlined in the Bill of Rights, by analyzing both the historical context for their inclusion as well as current implications of their adoption. As Thomas Jefferson noted in a letter to James Madison in 1787, "[A] bill of rights is what the people are entitled to against every government on earth, general or particular, and what no just government should refuse." Students first consider why the Bill of Rights were added to the Constitution, studying the debate between the Federalists (who believed the protections were already included in the Constitution itself), and the Anti-Federalists (who opposed ratification of the Constitution without inclusion of a specific list of guaranteed protections of individual rights). Students then study the impact of the colonial experience on the drafting of the Bill of Rights in order to understand why these freedoms were so important to citizens of the new republic, from its broad emphasis on religious and political freedom, to more specific protections, such as the prohibition

against quartering of troops. Finally, students consider how these liberties have come to be defined in practice over time, starting with *Marbury v. Madison*'s establishment of the judiciary's role in their protection, and in more current decisions on a variety of topics that reinforce student understanding of the individual rights, engage them in topics of real interest, and deepen their appreciation for the Bill of Rights' relevance in modern day.

Envisioning a New America

- How much power should the federal government have and what should it do?
- What was life like in the Early Republic?
- Was the Louisiana Purchase Constitutional?
- How did the government change during the Early Republic?

In this unit students consider the people, events, and ideas that shaped America between the ratification of the Constitution in 1788 and into the early 1800s. The new nation's leaders like Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, and Hamilton faced enormous challenges in trying to determine the political [and](#) [economic](#) structure of the country. John Adams, for example, argued that, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people," a sentiment echoed in George Washington's "Farewell Address." The conflicts between two views of how the newly independent country should move forward, articulated most vocally and explicitly by the ideological adversaries Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson, resulted in the emergence of a two-party system (Federalists

and Democratic –Republicans, respectively). These two parties had differing views on foreign policy, economic policy (the National Bank and infrastructure such as canals, roads, and land grants for education), and the interpretation of the Constitution. Students can analyze these different perspectives by considering, **How much power should the federal government have and what should it do?**

An in-depth comparison of both Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton can offer students insight into the administration of our first president, George Washington, demonstrate that success in this new republic was not at all assured, give insight into the development of a two-party system, and provide a better understanding of a fundamental tension that continues to influence American politics. Washington selected both Jefferson and Hamilton as members of his original cabinet; Jefferson as the first Secretary of State and Hamilton as Secretary of the Treasury. While both were dedicated to the success of his administration and the country itself, they often advised our first president to ignore the counsel of each other and became personal adversaries, as in 1792, when Jefferson told Washington that Hamilton's allies in Congress were a "corrupt squadron," whose "ultimate object ... is to prepare the way for a change, from the present republican form of government, to that of a monarchy, of which the English constitution is to be the model." (NARA). Through a careful examination of selected sentences from a variety of primary sources, such as Jefferson's letter to Washington, Alexander Hamilton's Report on the Public Credit (the sentence that begins with "To justify and preserve their confidence...")

is most helpful in communicating his central claim), or Thomas Jefferson's The Kentucky Resolutions which condemned the excess of the Alien and Sedition Acts (the sentence that begins with "Resolved, that the several states composing the United States of America, are not united on the principle of unlimited submission..." is most helpful in communicating his central claim), or Hamilton's notes for a speech proposing a plan of government at the Federal Convention of June 1787 (the section that starts with, "The general government must, in this case, not only have a strong soul, but *strong organs* by which that soul is to operate...." (NARA) makes a strong argument), students can begin to make sense of this complicated debate about the role of government, while at the same time gaining insight into a very nasty and public personal feud between the two founders. To support student comprehension of these difficult and dense primary source texts, teachers will need to employ a variety of literacy support strategies, such as strategies designed to: define unfamiliar vocabulary within context, identify the thesis of a written argument, and evaluate evidence in support of a claim. The inclusion of relevant secondary or text will likely support this effort. These debates provide early context for the meaning of federalism and help students address the question: **How did the government change during the Early Republic?**

Using shadow outlines of Hamilton and Jefferson's profiles, students can design a "historical head" to distinguish between the two founders' perspectives on the role of the government – how Jefferson prioritized the needs of the agrarian economy while Hamilton promoted commerce and manufacturing, for

example. These “historical heads” can also illuminate differences of opinion on the strength of the federal government, as compared to state and local governments, the protection of individual rights, the establishment of a national bank and what to do about public debt, and later support for infrastructure development, such as canals, roads, and land for schools. (“Historical head” strategy adapted from California History-Social Science Project, University of California, Davis.)

In addition to these internal divisions within the government, the United States had to confront more fundamental challenges to its authority and legitimacy such as Shays’ Rebellion and the Whiskey Rebellion. Many leaders in the new nation also felt they had to demonstrate the nation’s viability on the international stage, and in 1812 it fought an unpopular war with Great Britain and confirmed U.S. sovereignty.

Students can also learn about the ideals and aspirations of the people of the Early American Republic through a lens of demand for natural resources, a context for understanding the country’s physical landscapes, political divisions, and the resulting pressures which led to territorial expansion. This approach challenges them to consider the complications involved in westward expansion and begin to recognize many consequences of that growth (California Environmental Principle II). They learn what happens as the country doubled in size at the same time the new nation was struggling with issues of debt and, simultaneously, political control of what appeared to many as nearly limitless natural resources. (See EEI Curriculum Unit Land, Politics, and Expansion in the

Early Republic 8.4.1) The United States paid \$15 million to France for the purchase of the Louisiana territory. Students explore the constitutionality of this action, noting that even Jefferson himself argued that, “The General Government has no powers but such as the Constitution gives it... it has not given it power of holding foreign territory, and still less of incorporating it into the Union. An amendment of the Constitution seems necessary for this.” Students can relate this back to a debate over strict versus loose construction interpretation of the Constitution as they consider the question, **Was the Louisiana Purchase Constitutional?**

Territorial expansion and its consequences proved to be an ongoing source of conflict and debate for the new nation. The passage of the Northwest Ordinance set up a process for adding new states to the country and placed a limit on the spread of slavery, but this expansion also brought Americans into increased conflict with American Indian nations. While the Ordinance stated that, “The utmost good faith shall always be observed towards the Indians,” students learn that the reality was often very different.

Students can discuss the belief of the nation’s founders that the survival of a republican government depends on an educated people. They analyze the connection between education and republican ideals symbolized in the Northwest Ordinance and in Jefferson’ dictum, “If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be.” Students may survey the types of education received in church schools, dame schools, and at home. Preparing editorials for period newspapers, classroom

debates, and classroom speeches encourages students to consider the variety of educational systems in a democratic republic.

Students also examine the economic and social lives of ordinary people in the new nation, including farmers, merchants, laborers, and traders; women; African Americans, both slave and free; and American Indians, [comparing their status before and after the Revolution](#). Reading excerpts from works by James Fenimore Cooper, Washington Irving, Olaudah Equiano, and Abigail Adams. In addition, studying the writing, music, and art of this era will help bring this period alive and establish the origins of American identity. Surveying the evolution of the educational system and the lives of ordinary people prepares students to answer this question: **What was life like in the Early Republic?**

The Divergent Paths of the American People: 1800–1850

- How did individual regions of the United States become both more similar and more different?
- What was family life like in each region?
- How did work change between 1800 and 1850?
- What was the impact of slavery on American politics, regional economies, family life, and culture? What did the frontier mean to the nation in the first half of the nineteenth century?

This unit explores the nation's regional development in the Northeast, South, and West. Each region encompassed a distinct geography, economic focus, and demographic composition. Students can compare the regions in terms of

commercial development, sources of wealth, natural resources, political agendas, infrastructure, population density, and eventually slavery, including the debate over the free soil movement. However, the growth of the market economy and the faster movement of people, commerce, and information increasingly connected each region of the nation to the others. Thus, although the regions appeared to be developing separate characteristics, in fact the nation was becoming increasingly inter-dependent and connected in the first half of the nineteenth century.

The inter-connectedness was made possible by the market revolution, which is a term developed by historians to describe the transition in economic systems from a pre-industrial subsistence economy to a market-oriented society that made capitalism a part of people's daily lives. As an umbrella term, the market revolution describes not just the important economic changes, but the technological and transportation changes that affected politics and society. It made possible advances in transportation like turnpikes, steamboats, canals, and railroads. And it allowed for significance advances in communication through the telegraph, which allowed for more widespread availability of newspapers.

Eventually, the market revolution led to debates over the role that the government should play in supporting these advances; through controversial land subsidies and financing of projects the government became more involved in creating a national infrastructure as the nineteenth century progressed. In the years to come these debates would become more pointed, as some Americans argued for increasing government involvement and expenditure to support the

common good while others advocated a more limited role for the government and greater emphasis upon individual effort.

Throughout this regional study students should be encouraged to view historical events empathetically as though they were there, working in places such as mines, cotton fields, and mills [and compare those working conditions to current working conditions in emerging nations](#). Historical empathy will support students as they work to address broad questions of historical significance including: **How did individual regions of the United States become both more similar and more different?**

The Northeast. The industrial revolution in the Northeast affected the structure of life inside the region, but it also had important consequences for the nation as a whole. As the family economy gave way to industrial production, the roles of women and men changed. Middle-class women devoted themselves to the home and family, while men went out to work. An ideology of separate spheres conceptualized women and men as fundamentally different. As a result, men and women formed close bonds with one another inside their separate spheres, while at the same time were also expected to marry and raise a family. Students should engage with the question: **What was family life like in the Northeast?** This question encourages students to consider change over time, cause and effect, and historical context in developing a well-reasoned answer.

Inventions between 1790 and 1850 transformed manufacturing, transportation, mining, communications, agriculture, and the economy, and profoundly affected how people lived and worked. Industrialization, an umbrella

term that describes all of the changes listed above, touched nearly every component of American life. Mechanized production in shops, mills, and factories replaced skilled craftspersons, a process depicted by Charles Dickens in his *American Notes* and in the letters written by young women who left home to work in the mills of Lowell, Massachusetts. These women organized strikes and labor organizations to petition against wage cuts and appealed to the state legislature for shorter hours. Teachers may use historical fiction, such as *Lyddie* by Katherine Paterson, to illustrate the working lives of mill women and to help address this question: ***How did work change in the first half of the nineteenth century?*** This was a period of dramatic urbanization, as immigrants flocked to the cities, drawn by the “pull” factor of economic opportunity. The Great Irish Famine can be studied as an example of a “push” factor that affected the flow of immigrants to the United States. At the same time, the small African American population in the Northeast moved toward freedom, as the American Revolution initiated a long process of emancipation and indenture in this region. African Americans continued to occupy circumscribed social, economic, and political positions but created institutions to advance their rights and develop their communities, such as the African Methodist Episcopal Church founded by Richard Allen, Absalom Jones, and others in 1816.

Periods of boom and bust created both progress and poverty. In response to the strains brought about by rapid industrialization, an age of reform began that attempted to make life more bearable for the less fortunate and expanded opportunities for many. Students explore the significance of Charles Finney as

the most famous leader of the Second Great Awakening, inspiring religious zeal, social reforms, such as equal education for women and African Americans, and eventually, support for the abolitionist movement. As more Americans grew concerned about people who were considered to be “downtrodden,” they turned their reform impulses from churches and philanthropies to other sectors of society. Students can explore campaigns to reform hospitals, mental institutions, and prisons by studying the reformers, those considered in need of reform, and the methods by which reform was initiated. To make this topic more personal, students can study the work of Dorothea Dix and consider the following question that addresses change over time and causality: **How did Americans help people in need?** Other impulses for reform may be found in transcendentalism and individualism, as represented by the writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Herman Melville, Louisa May Alcott, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

In addition to learning about reform through philosophy, health, and religion, students can learn about nineteenth-century reform through education. Students can study what life was like for young people in the 1830s in order to appreciate Horace Mann’s crusade for free public education for all, as well as the argument for public investment in education, both in the 19th century and today.

Grade Eight Classroom Example: The Civic Purpose of Public Education
In Mr. Lopez’s 8 th -grade history class, students read and analyze excerpts from primary-source documents explaining the social and civic purposes of public

education. Mr. Lopez begins the class by explaining to students that they will consider the question: **Why go to school?** As a brief opening activity, Mr. Lopez asks students to discuss their personal answers to this first question, and then to attempt to address it for people in the nineteenth century. As students complete the activity, Mr. Lopez charts on the board many of the common answers including but not limited to: literacy, economic benefits, to get an informed electorate, and childcare.

Next, Mr. Lopez introduces the idea of compulsory education in the nineteenth century by showing them examples of typical schoolbooks from the era. He highlights elocution exercises, moral lessons, and orations (for example, *The Columbian Orator*). He also provides students with an explanation of **Why go to school?** from two leading nineteenth-century intellectuals: Benjamin Rush and Catherine Beecher. Using selected sentences from Rush's "Of the Mode of Education Proper in a Republic," and Beecher's *A Treatise on Domestic Economy* (chapter 1), students consider two radically different answers to the question. Working in pairs for a few minutes in preparation for a whole class discussion, the class charts similarities and differences between the justifications for education of the nineteenth century and more recent educational systems. They also discuss the perspectives of both authors by considering their personal background, the purpose of the document itself, and its intended audience. Although short, these excerpts are dense and filled with archaic language. To ensure student comprehension, Mr. Lopez works carefully with his students to

help them understand how common terms can often have multiple meanings. For example, he has student groups look up the multiple meanings of the word “interest” and then displays the following excerpt from the Beecher reading on the elmo: “The proper education of a man decides the welfare of an individual; but educate a woman, and the **interests** of the whole family are secured.” Mr. Lopez then asks each student group the meaning they believe best fits with the context of the sentence. After all the groups report and explain their reasoning, Mr. Lopez reveals/confirms the correct meaning for this context. Next he distributes a reference analysis chart which pinpoints the subtle references to religion and philosophy in the two documents. He uses a Think-Pair-Share to work through the chart with students. Finally he models for students a breakdown of the rhetorical structure that Rush uses to make his argument. He has student groups break down Beecher’s rhetorical structure with the help of a graphic organizer tailored to the chosen excerpt.

Mr. Lopez then asks students to discuss the following question in pairs, using evidence from the chart: Why did Benjamin Rush believe it was important to go to school? Why did Catherine Beecher believe it was important to go to school? How did their individual perspective affect their answers? As students discuss, Mr. Lopez circulates throughout the discussion to make sure that students’ answers are supported by relevant evidence and encourages them to think about how this answer might be similar or different if it was answered today.

As a culminating activity, Mr. Lopez asks students to assume the perspective

of one of the two 19th century authors in order to write a short critique of the other. Students then use their discussion notes to explain (in a few paragraphs) how their selected author's views align with and differ from the other, all in response to the question: **Why Go to School?**

CA HSS Standards: 8.6.5

CA HSS Analysis Skills (6–8): Research, Evidence, and Point of View 5

CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy: RH.6–8.1, 2, 4, 6, WHST.6–8.1, 7, 9, SL.8.1, L.8.4a

CA ELD Standards: ELD.PI.8.1, 6a, 8, 11a

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456 Out of these far-reaching reform movements of the nineteenth century,
457 Americans became increasingly interested in discussing the status of women.
458 Students can begin with a brief review the legal and economic status of women
459 and learn about the major impetus given to the woman's rights movement by
460 leaders such as Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. They should
461 read and discuss the Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments and compare it with
462 the Declaration of Independence by revisiting the important question: **What did**
463 **freedom mean and how did it change over time?** Noting the intersections
464 between previously-studied reform movements, the woman's rights movement
465 and the abolitionist movement, students can study the efforts of educators such
466 as Catharine Beecher, Emma Willard and Mary Lyon to establish schools and
467 colleges for women. Students may examine the relationship of these events to
468 contemporary issues by considering the question: **Why do periods of reform**
469 **arise at certain historical moments?**

As a link to the next region of study, students can explore the interdependence between the slave South and the industrial North. During the American Revolution, northern states had begun a slow process of emancipation while their southern counterparts, with the invention of the cotton gin, became increasingly tied to a slave-based economy. Eli Whitney, a teacher and tinkerer from New England and educated at Yale, was working on a Georgia plantation when he invented his famous machine that increased the productivity of slave labor. Despite the fact that slavery was by and large a Southern institution, Northern and Western business leaders and national economic institutions continued to derive their own wealth from the nation's use of slavery to extract raw materials.

Slave labor produced the cotton and raw materials which enabled northern manufacturers, financiers, and other business interests ~~factories and businesses~~ to thrive. This, in turn, spurred a new consumer culture in individual families, connected to the slave-based economy. These topics can help students address the question: **How did the country become more connected in the first half of the nineteenth century?**

The South. During these years, the South diverged dramatically from the Northeast and the West. Its plantation economy depended on a system of slave labor to harvest such cash crops as cotton, rice, sugarcane, and tobacco. The invention of the cotton gin allowed for a dramatic expansion of plantation agriculture across the region. African-American slavery, the “peculiar institution” of the South, had marked effects on the region's political, social, economic, and

cultural development. Increasingly at odds with the rest of the nation, the South was unable to share in the popularity of democratic politics of the Jacksonian era or in the reform campaigns of the 1840s. Its system of public education lagged far behind the rest of the nation.

Students learn about the institution of slavery in the South in its historical context. They review their seventh-grade studies of West African civilizations before the coming of the Europeans and compare the American system of chattel slavery, which considered people as property, with slavery in other societies. Students discuss the role that race and gender played in constructing the enslaved as in need of civilization and thereby rationalizing slavery; the daily lives of enslaved men and women on plantations and small farms, including the varied family structures they adopted; the economic and social realities of slave auctions that led to the separation of nuclear families and encouraged broad kinship bonds; the centrality of sexual violence to the system of slavery; and the myriad laws: from the outlawing of literacy to restrictions on freedom gained through emancipation or purchase that marked the lives of American slaves. Amidst the confining world of slavery, the enslaved asserted their humanity in developing a distinct African-American culture through retaining and adapting their traditional customs on American soil. This culture included less restrictive norms around gender and sexuality that supported the formation of alternative family structures within enslaved communities. Students can connect this information about the slave society by considering the question: **What were slaves lives like? How did slave families live in ways that were similar to**

and different from non-slave families? While organized revolt was rare, in informal and individual ways, enslaved men and women resisted their bondage. Breaking tools, working slowly, feigning illness, and even learning to read and write represented skirmishes in an unacknowledged conflict between the enslaved and the enslaver. When armed revolts were uncovered (Gabriel Prosser in 1800 and Denmark Vesey in 1822) or manifested (the Stono Rebellion in 1739 and Nat Turner in 1831), white Southerners punished the individual perpetrators and often passed more severe laws. Students explore the effects of slave revolt and rebellion upon local and state legislation and relations between enslaved African Americans and free white Southerners.

To provide a more comprehensive understanding of the antebellum South, students study the lives of plantation owners and other white [farmers and workers, comparing and contrasting the views of these different groups towards slavery](#)~~Southerners~~; the more than 100,000 free African Americans in the South; as well as the laws, such as the fugitive slave laws of 1793 and 1850, that curbed their freedom and economic opportunity. Students also compare the situations of free African Americans in the South and in the North and note that freedom from slavery did not necessarily lead to acceptance and equality.

Students examine the national abolitionist movement that arose during the nineteenth century. While the abolition movement is quite popular with students seeking to connect these early activists to rights-movements of the next century, it is extremely important that students learn about abolitionists in their own contexts. Abolitionists were considered the most radical reformists by both

539 southerners and northerners; their arguments about the immorality of slavery
540 were never popular with the vast majority of Americans. Only by studying
541 remarkable abolitionists like Thomas Weld, William Lloyd Garrison, Angelina and
542 Sarah Grimke, Wendell Phillips, and John Brown, in this context, can students
543 begin to understand the historical context of slavery. Despite repeated threats,
544 attacks, and bounties on their heads, abolitionists wrote news articles and
545 editorials, spoke publicly, boycotted slave-made goods, housed fugitive slaves,
546 and, in the case of John Brown, planned armed conflict. African Americans, free
547 and enslaved, also actively challenged the existence of slavery, both as
548 individuals and through the founding of fraternal organizations, churches, and
549 newspapers. African American abolitionists, including Frederick Douglass,
550 Sojourner Truth, Harriett Jacobs, Charles Remond, Harriet Tubman, and Robert
551 Purvis risked their lives to speak at public gatherings, pen news articles, petition
552 Congress, and assist in the underground movement to help rescue escaping
553 slaves. Excerpts from Frederick Douglass's *What the Black Man Wants*, David
554 Walker's *Appeal*, Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, and Fanny
555 Kemble's *Journal of Residence on a Georgia Plantation*, as well as excerpts from
556 slave narratives and abolitionist tracts of this period, will bring these people and
557 events alive for students and enable them to address questions like: **How did**
558 **people work to end slavery and what opposition did they face?**

Grade Eight Classroom Example: The Anti-Slavery Movement
(Integrated ELD in U.S. History–Social Science)

In history class, students are learning about the origins of slavery in the U.S., its consequences, and its abolition. They learn how Frederick Douglass, an African-American writer and political activist who was born a slave in 1818, escaped to freedom and began to promote the anti-slavery cause in the nineteenth century. Throughout the 1840s and 1850s he traveled across the north delivering abolitionist lectures, writing anti-slavery articles, and publishing his autobiography about his time in slavery and in freedom.

In 1855, Douglass gave a speech to the Rochester Ladies' Anti-Slavery Society. Mrs. Wilson, the history teacher, has carefully excerpted significant selections from Douglass's speech as well as other relevant primary sources in order to help her students understand the abolitionist argument in the years leading up to the Civil War and to answer the following focus question: **Why did Frederick Douglass believe the United States should abolish slavery?** Mr. Lopez, the school's ELD specialist, has consulted with Mrs. Wilson to help students understand Douglass's writing, which contains challenging vocabulary, complicated organization, and abstract ideas. The following quotation from Douglass's speech in Rochester is characteristic of the language students will encounter:

The slave is bound to mankind, by the powerful and inextricable network of human brotherhood. His voice is the voice of a man, and his cry is the cry of a man in distress, and a man must cease to be a man before he can become insensible to that cry. It is the righteousness of the cause—the

humanity of the cause—which constitutes its potency.

Recognizing that their EL students, who are all at the Bridging level of English language proficiency, need support in understanding this complex language in order to develop sophisticated understandings of the content, for designated ELD time, Mrs. Wilson and Mr. Lopez collaboratively design lessons to meet these needs. They also recognize that the other students in the history class, many of whom are former ELs and standard English learners, would benefit from strategic attention to language analysis. The teachers decide to co-teach a series of integrated ELD lessons for the whole history class. They distribute copies of the quoted passage and read the excerpt aloud while students read along.

Next, Mr. Lopez asks the students to work in pairs to identify words or phrases in the short passage that are unfamiliar, abstract, or confusing. He has anticipated what some of these words will be (e.g., inextricable, potency) and has prepared student-friendly explanations in advance. After about a minute, he pulls the class together, charts the words the class identified, and offers brief explanations, which the students note in the margins of their individual copies. Since some of the words are cognates in Spanish, and many of the students are bilingual in Spanish- English bilinguals, he calls their attention to those words and provides the Spanish cognate. He also clarifies that the male pronouns man and men in the excerpt are meant to represent all of humanity, not just the males.

Mrs. Wilson and Mr. Lopez then guide the students through a detailed sentence deconstruction activity, in which they model how to code words and

phrases according to how they function to make meaning in the sentences. In particular, the teachers encourage students to clearly identify words that serve as reference devices—substitutes and pronouns that refer to people, concepts, and events in other parts of the excerpt or in their previous discussions about the Antebellum era. After modeling and explaining how to conduct this type of analysis on a different chunk of text, the teachers ask students to work in pairs to practice doing the same analysis on the excerpt from Douglass’s speech at Rochester. An example of the whole group debrief, following their pair work:

Text:	Analysis: What do the bolded terms in the text refer to?
The slave is bound to mankind , by the powerful and inextricable network of human brotherhood.	-men and women in slavery -all people, humanity
His voice is the voice of a man ,	-the slave’s voice -all people, humanity
and his cry is the cry of a man in distress ,	-the slave’s cry or call for help - <i>man</i> and <i>mankind</i> —all people, humanity in distress
and a man must cease	-slave owners or people who support/don’t

to be a man before he can become insensible to that cry	fight against slavery -the cry of the slave in distress, but also all people in distress
It is the righteousness of the cause—the humanity of the cause—	-linking the <i>righteousness</i> and <i>humanity of the</i> <i>cause</i> with how powerful it is (potency) -the cause is the abolition of slavery -the righteousness and humanity of the cause is what makes it or causes it to be powerful
which constitutes its potency .	-the power or potency of the cause (abolition of slavery)

As Mr. Lopez leads the class to complete the chart together, drawing from the similar charts they completed in pairs, he asks students to suggest where he should draw arrows to connect the referring words to their antecedents. Throughout this discussion, there is considerable negotiating as students grapple with the meanings in the text and attempt to persuade their peers about their interpretations of those meanings. During the discussion about the text, Mr. Lopez prompts students to provide evidence to support their claims. In addition to unpacking the literal meanings of words and phrases, Mr. Lopez asks students to discuss in triads the following question:

"Why did Douglass repeatedly use the word 'the man' to describe slave men and women?"

After lively small group discussions and then a whole group debrief, students

are encouraged to develop their own interpretations using evidence from the text as well as their previous study of the Antebellum era. Some students believe that Douglass wanted to remind the white ruling class that men and women in bondage were human and hoped to connect the suffering of slaves to humanity's struggles. Others suggest that Douglass was using the same rhetorical tool as the founding fathers, who often used the term, man to encompass everyone. Other students argue that since women did not have the same rights as men in 1855, Douglass focused his appeal on male citizens – those who could vote and make laws. During the whole group discussion, Mrs. Wilson and Mr. Lopez pose questions to help students fully grasp Douglass' use of imagery (e.g., a man in distress, his cry) as a tool for persuading his listeners. The class then deconstructs other sections of the text in order to develop even more nuanced understandings of Douglass' writing and ideas. After examining a few other excerpts from the speech, the teachers ask the students to discuss and then write about the focus question:

Why did Frederick Douglass believe the United States should abolish slavery?

Mr. Lopez and Mrs. Wilson find that having students grapple simultaneously with basic comprehension of short excerpts and larger questions about Douglass's intent supports deeper understandings about the social significance of Douglass's speech and provides students with strategies approaching other complex informational and historical texts.

Sources and Resources:

- Example adapted from The California History-Social Science Project, University of California, Davis.

Primary Source: Douglass, Frederick. "The Anti-Slavery Movement." Rochester Ladies' Anti-Slavery Society. Rochester, New York, 1855. Rochester, New York: Lee, Mann and Co., Rochester, NY. Source: Library of Congress, Manuscript / Mixed Material Division, <http://www.loc.gov/item/mfd000384>.

CA HSS Content Standards: 8.7.2, 8.9, 8.9.1, 2, 4, 6

CA HSS Analysis Skills (6–8): Research, Evidence, and Point of View 5, Historical Interpretation 1

CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy: RH.6–8.1, 2, 4, 6, 8-10

CA ELD Standards (Bridging): ELD.PI.8.1, 6a, 6b, 8, 11a; ELD.PII.8.2a

559

560 *The West*. The West, whose boundaries, margins, and center shifted rapidly
561 and dramatically during this period, deeply influenced the politics, economy,
562 mores, and culture of the nation. It opened domestic markets for seaboard
563 merchants; it offered new frontiers for immigrants and discontented Easterners; it
564 allowed significant alterations in gender norms; and it inspired a folklore of
565 individualism and rugged frontier life that has dramatically influenced our national
566 self-image and sense of the American past. Students should continue to grapple
567 with questions of regional identity like: **What did the frontier mean to the**
568 **nation? [What was the impact of improved transportation and](#)**
569 **[communication?](#) How did the nation's regions develop similarly and**
570 **differently in the first half of the twentieth century? How did family life**

develop in each region? The West was a changing region over this period as the country expanded, from the territory opened by the Northwest Ordinance, to the vast lands of the Louisiana Purchase, to the southwestern territories taken from Mexico. The peoples of the West reflected the diversity of the region: American Indians, Mexicans, Asians, and American emigrants and immigrants of various racial and ethnic backgrounds. As Americans moved west, they interacted with established societies, both indigenous and those created by earlier colonizers. Students study how the term the “frontier” affected American settlement and development in the West.

The election of Andrew Jackson in 1828 reflected the steady expansion of white male suffrage, symbolized the shift of political power to the West, and opened a new era of political democracy in the United States. President Jackson was a symbol of his age. Jacksonian Democracy should be analyzed in terms of its supporters—farmers with small holdings, artisans, laborers, and middle-class businessmen. It should also be looked at for its limitations. As an example, Andrew Jackson was a slave holder and also pressed for the removal of Native Americans, even disregarding a Supreme Court decision on the matter (*Johnson v. M'Intosh*, 1823). In studying Jackson's presidency, students consider his spoils system, veto of the National Bank, policy of Indian removal, and opposition to the Supreme Court. Students can consider the question: **How did Andrew Jackson change the country?** Students may also consider Andrew Jackson's legacy in order to evaluate his reputation as a hero for common people. During this time, Alexis de Tocqueville, a French nobleman, visited the United States to identify

the general principles of American democracy. Students can compare his description of national character in the 1830s as recorded in *Democracy in America* with American life during the Revolution or with today.

Students review the story of the acquisition, exploration, and settlement of the trans-Mississippi West, from the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 to the admission of California as a state in 1850. This was a period marked by a strong spirit of nationalism, as Americans moved westward in search of economic opportunity, abundant natural resources, and for some, religious freedom. The success and speed with which the young nation expanded westward contributed to the perspective that Americans had a special purpose and divine right to populate the North American continent. This idea became known as “manifest destiny” and inspired an imperial ideology that infused American attitudes of racial and political superiority towards American Indians and the Republic of Mexico.

Students can consider the question: **How did Manifest Destiny contribute to American expansion?** To deepen their understanding of the changing political and economic geography and settlement of this immense land, students might read from the journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition to the Northwest; [they could describe the lives of fur trappers and the impact that they had on knowledge of the geography of the west](#); they could map the explorations of trailblazers such as Zebulon Pike, Jedediah Smith, Christopher “Kit” Carson, and John C. Fremont; they might discuss the searing accounts of the removal of Indians and the Cherokees’ “Trail of Tears”; and they could interpret maps and documents relating to the long sea voyages including around the horn of South

617 America and overland treks that opened the West. Teachers include discussions
618 about the role of the great rivers, the struggles over water rights in the
619 development of the West, and the effect of geography on shaping the different
620 ways that people settled and developed western regions. Students learn that as
621 settlers began their westward journey in the 19th century, water played a vital
622 role in determining the location of settlements. They can participate in a role
623 playing activity to explore the influence of rivers on development and settlement
624 patterns, and discover that the management of this essential resource took on a
625 different form than in the eastern states where supplies were adequate to meet
626 demand. Students recognize that the limited availability of water in the West
627 underscored many political, legal, and economic decisions about water
628 management (California Environmental Principle V, EEI Curriculum Unit
629 Struggles with Water 8.8.4).

Grade Eight Classroom Example: Western Expansion
Ms. Ramsberg encourages her students to examine multiple perspectives as they study change over time in the settlement of the American West. One class activity that deepens student understanding of the ways that Americans discussed westward expansion is through consideration of this question: How did leading American thinkers (such as artists, intellectuals, religious and government leaders) justify America’s westward expansion in the 19th century? Ms. Ramsberg explains to her students that this activity is more about how people thought about their country, than it is about how the country itself

looked. She tells students that they will examine several primary sources to have access to a variety of perspectives on this question: 1) a letter from John Quincy Adams to his father, John Adams, in 1811 (both Adamses served as US Presidents); 2) an excerpt from columnist John O'Sullivan's essay "Annexation," which advocated for Texas' admission into the Union; 3) a copy of *American Progress*, an 1872 painting by John Gast, who was hired to create the painting by George Crofutt, a publisher of western travel guides; 4) an excerpt from "The Significance of the Frontier of American History" by historian Frederick Jackson Turner; 5) an excerpt from *Our Country: Its Possible Future and Its Present Crisis* by Josiah Strong, a Congregational Minister.

As students read each document, they collect evidence and supporting details about how the source advocates for western expansion. Ms. Ramsberg supports student reading comprehension through a variety of literacy-building strategies, including graphic organizers and sentence deconstruction charts to help students understand O'Sullivan's use of reference devices, abstract claims, and causal relationships. Students then compare American Progress to a selected excerpt from the Turner argument to practice historical corroboration, and finally give a short oral argument in response to the lesson's question, using evidence collected from the primary sources.

Source: Excerpted from *Western Expansion - Curriculum to support California's implementation of the Common Core and English Language Development Standards*. California History-Social Science Project. Copyright ©

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CA HSS Content Standards: 8.8.2

CA HSS Analysis Skills (6–8): Research, Evidence, and Point of View 4, 5

CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy: RH.6–8.1, 2, 6, 8, 9, SL.8.4, L.8.6

CA ELD Standards: ELD.PI.8.1, 6a, 6b, 7, 9, 11; ELD.PII.8.1

630

631 In addition to learning about the political, economic, and ideological
632 justifications for western expansion, students study the northward movement of
633 settlers from Mexico into the Southwest, with emphasis on the location of
634 Mexican settlements, their cultural traditions, their attitudes toward slavery, their
635 land-grant system, and the economy they established. Students need this
636 background before they can analyze the events that followed the arrival of
637 westward-moving settlers from the East into these Mexican territories. Students
638 explore the settlement of Americans in northern Mexico and their actions to
639 establish the Republic of Texas. Teachers provide special attention to the causes
640 and consequences of the United States' War with Mexico by considering the
641 question, **What were the consequences of the Mexican American War?** To
642 answer this question, students study early territorial settlements, the political
643 ambitions of James K. Polk and other pro-slavery politicians, and the war's
644 aftermath on the lives of the Mexican families who first lived in the region.
645 Students also study the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and the California
646 Constitution of 1849 and their effects on the lives of Mexicans living within the
647 new United States borders.

648 Frontier life had a mixed effect on the relations between men and women.
649 White men far outnumbered white women, creating some opportunities where
650 the latter became more valued than previously; they were thus able to achieve
651 some rights in the West before their counterparts elsewhere. White women
652 residing in many western states gained the franchise in the late-nineteenth
653 century, earlier than women in other parts of the nation. This skewed gender ratio
654 also led more white men to marry Mexican women with greater frequency in
655 some communities in the American Southwest. Primary-source documents will
656 provide students of a more appropriate sense of the varied roles played by
657 frontier women as students to continue to address the question: **How did family**
658 **life change during the first half of the nineteenth century?** Many women of
659 diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds felt trapped or limited by their gender in a
660 place and time so dominated by men. Some women responded to this by
661 working for social change. California's Annie Bidwell promoted women's rights—
662 especially suffrage—temperance, and compulsory education. Other women
663 confronted this society by passing as or transforming themselves into men, thus
664 benefiting from the greater opportunities men had in the West. California's
665 Charley Parkhurst, for example, who was born as a female but who lived as a
666 male, drove stagecoach routes in northern and central California for almost 30
667 years. Stagecoaches were the only way many people could travel long distances,
668 and they served as a vital communication link between isolated communities.
669 Parkhurst was one of the most famous California drivers, having survived
670 multiple robberies while driving (and later killing a thief when he tried to rob

671 Parkhurst a second time). Finally, gold rushes and western military life provide
672 examples of frontier settings where men far outnumbered women and for this
673 and many reasons, people lived less conventional lives.

674

675 **The Causes, Course of, and Consequences of the Civil War**

- 676 • Why was there a Civil War?
- 677 • How did the United States transform during the Civil War?
- 678 • How was the Civil War conducted militarily, politically, economically, and
- 679 culturally?
- 680 • How was slavery abolished through the Civil War?

Sidebar: The History Blueprint: Was the Civil War for Freedom?

The History Blueprint is a free curriculum developed by the California History-Social Science Project (<http://chssp.ucdavis.edu>), designed to increase student literacy and understanding of history. Three units are available for free download from the CHSSP's website, including The Civil War, a comprehensive standards-aligned unit for eighth grade teachers that combines carefully selected and excerpted primary sources, original content, and substantive support for student literacy development. For more information or to download the curriculum, visit: <http://chssp.ucdavis.edu/programs/historyblueprint>.

681 In this unit, students concentrate on the lead up to, conduct of, and
682 consequences of the Civil War. By 1850 slavery had become too divisive for
683 political leaders to ignore; a series of increasingly violent clashes over the
684 decade shone a spotlight on how slavery as a political, economic, and social

685 institution divided the country and would become the cause for an American Civil
686 War. Students can begin their studies of the lead up to the Civil War by exploring
687 this question: **Why was there a Civil War?** Students can briefly review the
688 constitutional compromises that forestalled the separation of the union in the first
689 half of the nineteenth century, especially the Missouri Compromise. But the
690 compromises of the 1810s-1840s did not last. Ultimately, the nation fractured
691 over the debate about the expansion of slavery into newly created western
692 territories and states, especially after the Mexican-American War and the
693 discovery of gold in California. The Wilmot Proviso, the Compromise of 1850, the
694 Kansas-Nebraska Act, the Ostend Manifesto, the Dred Scott case, the Lincoln-
695 Douglas debates, and John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry are all important
696 markers in how slavery had become the key problem dividing political leaders.
697 Students can chart these developments in the years leading up to the Civil War,
698 noting on the one hand, how the issue of slavery was at the root of each event,
699 but on the other hand, how political leaders sought to avoid war at all costs.
700 Studying these events in this nuanced way is an exercise in understanding
701 contingency and cause and effect; for example, political leaders who worked out
702 the negotiations in the Compromise of 1850 did not want the country to divide
703 and lapse into war, nor did they know that their series of compromises in 1850
704 would ultimately pave the way for this war. This is an important reminder for
705 students to "think historically" to study the past on its own terms, but also
706 understand how it would influence future events.

707 On December 20, 1860 South Carolina became the first state in the nation to

708 secede from the union. The state's secession came in response to the
709 presidential election of Abraham Lincoln the prior month, even though he was not
710 to take office until March of 1861. South Carolina decided that Lincoln's
711 presidential win as a Republican – a party that supported the Free Soil platform,
712 not the end of slavery in territories that it already existed – signaled that it could
713 not continue as part of the United States. South Carolina was joined by twelve
714 other states in the coming months, which united together and formed the
715 Confederate States of America in March 1861. Students learn about the
716 fundamental challenge to the Constitution and the Union posed by the secession
717 of the southern states and the doctrine of nullification. When Lincoln took office
718 the same month that the Confederacy formed he said his first task was to reunite
719 the nation; he did not support freeing slaves in the south at this point. It became
720 clear that war was likely a necessary step to attempt reunification, which
721 happened at Fort Sumter, South Carolina, when, between April 12-14, 1861,
722 Lincoln refused to withdraw American troops stationed at this American fort. With
723 the first shots of the Civil War fired, students should be encouraged to
724 understand three key pieces of historical context: 1) at the war's beginning, it was
725 unpopular among northerners, and the extremely high casualty rates continued
726 to make it an unpopular war; 2) the South seceded because they perceived
727 Lincoln's election to be a threat to the institution of slavery; and 3) at the war's
728 beginning the purpose of it was not to end slavery, but to reunite the nation. With
729 this context in mind, students will learn through cause and effect and contingency
730 that the purpose of the war did change to be a war to end slavery.

731 Students should continue to study the development and administration of the
732 Civil War by employing the discipline-specific thinking skills of contingency and
733 cause and effect. These two questions can help frame this way of understanding
734 the Civil War: **How did the United States transform during the Civil War?**
735 **How was the Civil War conducted militarily, politically, economically, and**
736 **culturally?** Students should be reminded often that actors in the war – whether it
737 was political or military leaders, soldiers, slaves, civilians – did not know how the
738 war would develop, what the results would be, or that slavery would come to a
739 decisive end within four years. At the outset of the war, the North and the South
740 each had different advantages and strategies. The North, with its 3.8 million free
741 men of military age, had a much larger pool of potential servicemen; it had ten
742 times the industrial capacity as the south; it had more than double the miles of
743 railroad line to transport people and goods; it had many more ships and a navy; it
744 also had West Point, the premier military academy in the country to train leaders
745 in the midst of the war. By comparison, the South had 1.1 million free men of
746 military age, of which 80% of whom were recruited for war; it did not have the
747 industrial capacity that the north did because the region had devoted the vast
748 majority of its economic and technological energy to the cash crop of cotton. The
749 South also had talented graduates of West Point leading its soldiers who were
750 more familiar with the landscape, and they fought most of the war on the
751 defensive, which at least initially seemed to be a more winnable war to fight. In
752 addition to these strategic advantages and disadvantages, the Civil War
753 demonstrated the advantages of a strong central government when facing the

challenges of organizing a nation for war. The coercive powers of the federal government to levy taxes, draft soldiers, and suspend civil liberties, and impose martial law all enabled President Lincoln in prosecuting the war. Jefferson Davis and the Confederacy relied upon a weak central government and the voluntary cooperation of state governments for the cause of southern independence. These differences proved a decided advantage in favor of the North.

Students can be introduced to key battles including Antietam, Vicksburg, Gettysburg that served as turning points in the war, though as they explore the up-close details of the battlefield, they should also be reminded to view the events with the broader historical significance in mind by revisiting a central question: **How did this battle of affect the course of the war? How did this battle reflect broader patterns or struggles in the war?** In addition to studying the critical battlefield campaigns of the war, students learn how modern technologies of warfare combined with antiquated military tactics to produce massive casualties on both sides. The hundreds of thousands of sick and wounded required medical attention, which in turn created a shortage of people to care for these soldiers. This acute need precipitated a crisis that led to the large scale employment of women as nurses and administrators, and in the case of Mary Edwards Walker, a female doctor. Students use a variety of primary sources to examine the human meaning of the war in the lives of soldiers, free African Americans, slaves, women, and others. Ultimately, enslaved men and women, by fleeing their plantations and seeking refuge among Union forces, contributed to redefining the war as a struggle over their freedom. Photographs

reveal the horrors of the war and the new ways that civilians experienced warfare through emerging technologies and media. Teachers may choose to assign James McPherson's *What They Fought For, 1861-1865* or teach the CHSSP's Civil War Blueprint curriculum to introduce students to what northern and southern soldiers believed the war was about and what they hoped to achieve by fighting.

In addition to learning about the administration and battle-field developments of the war, students should come away from their studies of the Civil War with an understanding of the fact that the purpose of the war changed as it was being fought. Over the course of the war, it changed from being a war to reunite the union, to being a war to end slavery. The following framing question underscores this point for students: **How and why did the war become a war to end slavery?** Through self-emancipation, slaves freed themselves, fled to union camps, and pressed military leaders and the president to consider the role of slaves in the war itself. Documents including Lincoln's first and second inaugural addresses, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the Gettysburg Address should be read and charted by students to document the change in meaning to the war.

Students should understand the evolving role of finance in the war as "cotton bonds" became worthless after the Battle of New Orleans and the North's ability to blockade the port and prevent cotton from reaching the European markets. As a result, the South resorted to printing paper money which led to inflation, the declining value of the currency and the South's inability to continue financing the war.

The Civil War and its immediate aftermath should be treated as a watershed event in American history. It resolved a challenge to the very existence of the nation, demolished the antebellum way of life in the South, and created the prototype of modern warfare. To understand Reconstruction, students consider the economic and social changes that came with the end of slavery and how African Americans attained political freedom and exercised that power within a few years after the war. Students also explore the impact Reconstruction had on African American kinship structures and family life. Students study the postwar struggle for control of the South and of the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson. A federal civil rights bill granting full equality to African Americans was followed by adoption of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments. Between 1865 and 1877, African-American citizens, newly organized as Republicans, influenced the direction of southern politics and elected 22 members of Congress. Republican-dominated legislatures established the first publicly financed education systems in the region, provided debt relief to the poor, and expanded women's rights. Students examine the effects of Reconstruction in the South by considering the question: **How did Reconstruction redefine what it meant to be an American?** As important as the era was in expanding civil rights in the south, Reconstruction was temporary. Students should employ cause-and-effect thinking skills to analyze the consequences of the 1872 Amnesty Act and the fateful election of 1876, followed by the prompt withdrawal of federal troops from the South.

[Northern control of the federal government during and for several decades](#)

after the Civil War had economic consequences on the North, the West and the defeated South. Five pieces of legislation were passed during the Civil War which promoted Northern economic development during the decades after the War:

- The Morrill Tariff of 1861 raised tariffs, ending more than thirty years of declining rates.
- The Transcontinental Railroad Acts of 1862 and 1864 funded three transcontinental railroads.
- The Morrill Land Grant Act (1862) allotted each state that remained in the Union 30,000 acres of land for each member of Congress to establish agricultural and mechanical colleges.
- The National Bank Act of 1863 created a set of standards for the banking system.
- The Homestead Act of 1862 provided 160 acres in western territories to anyone who settled on it for five years and declared their intention to become a citizen.

Commented [JC1]: Tony, I think you are going to have to shorten this considerably. Make the point that the North passed and enforced economic legislation that crippled the South, with a couple of brief examples.

Commented [JC2]: I would skip most of the above and simply state the legislation as you have done and its impact on North, South, and/or West.

Commented [JC3]: And this affected the agricultural south how??

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Students analyze how events during and after Reconstruction raised and then dashed hopes that African Americans would achieve full equality. They should understand how over the next couple of decades, courts and political interests undermined the intent of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution. They learn how slavery was replaced by black peonage, segregation, Jim Crow laws, and other legal restrictions on the rights of African Americans, capped by the Supreme Court's *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision in 1896

(“separate but equal”). Racism prevailed, enforced by lynch mobs, the Ku Klux Klan, popular sentiment, and federal acceptance, which spread outside of the South. Students need to understand the connection between the Reconstruction-era amendments and the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Although undermined by the courts a century ago, these amendments became the legal basis for all civil rights progress in the twentieth century. Students can conclude their studies of this era by returning to the question: **How did the Civil War change the United States?**

The Rise of Industrial America: 1877–1914

- How did America's economy, industries, and population grow after the Civil War?
- How did the federal government affect the country's growth in the years following the Civil War?
- Who came to the United States at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth century? Why did they come? What was their experience like when they arrived?

The period from the end of Reconstruction to World War I transformed the nation into an industrial giant that made it as productive and industrialized as the major powers and producers in Europe. This complex period was marked by the settling of the trans-Mississippi West, the expansion and concentration of basic industries, the establishment of national transportation networks and new maritime routes, the invention of a variety of tools and industrial processes that increased economic productivity and efficiency, a

human tidal wave of immigration from southern and eastern Europe, growth in the number and size of cities, accumulation of great fortunes by a small number of entrepreneurs, the rise of organized labor, growth of the women's suffrage movement, and increased American involvement in foreign affairs (for example, through the construction of the Pacific Fleet, engagement in the Spanish-American War of 1898, and the completion of the Panama Canal).

Capitalism enabled entrepreneurs to contribute to the industrialization of the U.S. economy during this period. Industrial and financial tycoons such as J. P. Morgan, John D. Rockefeller, Cornelius Vanderbilt, Andrew Carnegie, James J. Hill, Jay Gould, and others, took advantage of the nation's natural resources, land, manufacturing technology, and a large labor pool from increased immigration to amass enormous fortunes while contributing to the nation's economic growth. These men, who came to be known as the "Robber Barons" created monopolies enabling them to eliminate less powerful competitors, raise prices, and maximize their profits. Students can analyze the impact of the "Robber Barons" on the economy in general, on consumers, producers of complimentary products, and on workers.

Railroads played a particularly important role in the nation's economic development. Because railroads were a reliable and inexpensive way to transport goods, compared to other options, railroads proliferated in the eastern states. The potential wealth in the West led to the building of a transcontinental railroad stretching from coast to coast. On May 10, 1869, the rail lines of the Central Pacific and the Union Pacific were finally joined in Utah uniting the nation economically enabling Americans to take advantage of a vast common market.

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These years are often referred to as the Gilded Age (because of the mass accumulation of wealth by small number of extremely powerful individuals and companies) and the Progressive Era (because of the reform movement that started as a way to promote the interests of those who did not share in the prosperity of those years). As a means of examining patterns of urbanization, immigration, and industrialization, students can refer to historic maps to identify physical features of American cities, building both their chronological and spatial analysis skills. Viewing historical maps in chronological order allows students to trace growth patterns of cities and to recognize how a city's growth and industries demanded ever-increasing quantities of natural resources, gathered from increasingly greater distances. Students can unite their studies of these years by considering the question: **How did America's economy, industries, and population grow after the Civil War?**

Industrialization, the umbrella term that describes the major changes in technology, transportation, communication, the economy, and political system that fostered the growth, allowed for the ballooning prosperity at the turn of the century. New technology in farming, manufacturing, engineering, and producing of consumer goods created material abundance. The flood of new stuff supported a larger population and made the producers of the goods very wealthy when prices were stable. Industrialization combined with mass production made possible the department store, suspension bridges, the telegraph, the discovery and uses for electricity, high-rise buildings, tenements, and the streetcar. These and other features of modern life seemed to confirm the idea of unending

progress. Students may examine the impact of these new inventions upon the American economy, such as the refrigerator car, the telephone, or the electric light, through the construction of a virtual museum exhibit which includes information about individual inventors, descriptions of the new invention or process, and the significance of the new discovery. In addition to individual inventions, students examine the phenomenal growth in industrial efficiency and output during this period, due to increased mechanization, and with it, reduced production costs. Mechanization and factory production reduced labor costs and expanded production capacity. As a result, manufacturers could produce more goods for a lower price using a strategically organized workforce.

As industry grew, many small businesses consolidated to form large monopolies that dominated a particular economic activity or commodity. These businesses, such as Standard Oil, often engaged in predatory pricing, where they undercut the cost of production in order to put their competitors out of business. Without competition, monopolies could then raise prices at will, effectively gauging consumers who had nowhere else to turn for their goods or services.

Economic progress was repeatedly disrupted, however, by prolonged periods of severe financial distress; the country suffered a number of economic recessions during the intense boom and bust cycles at the end of the nineteenth century. Students identify and explore patterns of agricultural, industrial, and commercial development in the United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and the effect of such development on the American environment

(California Environmental Principle II) and apply their knowledge of to an exploration of how increased mechanization and production in the late 19th century influenced the growth of American communities (EEI Curriculum Unit Agricultural and Industrial Development in the United States 8.12.1).

Leading industrialists of this period, such as Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller, became the wealthiest men in history and gave back some of that wealth to the nation through their philanthropic activities. Governments promoted the wealth consolidated by these men and supported business expansion and prosperity through favorable economic policies such as tariffs and land grants.

The rapid growth of the country in this period had important consequences for how people lived their lives. Beneath the surface of the Gilded Age, there was a dark side, seen in the activities of corrupt political bosses, in the ruthless practices of businesses, in the depths of poverty and unemployment experienced in the teeming cities, in the grinding labor of women and children in sweatshops, mills, and factories, in the prejudice and discrimination against African Americans, Hispanics, Catholics, Jews, Asians, and other newcomers, and in the violent repression of labor organizing, such as the Homestead Steel Strike in Pennsylvania and the Pullman Railway Strike.

American cities in late nineteenth century grew without planning and were plagued by poverty, disease, crime, and decay. Layoffs were common, steady work brought frequently brought exhaustion, and child labor was common. Thousands of families lived in slums that were breeding grounds for typhoid, smallpox, cholera, tuberculosis, and other diseases swept through the cities on a

[regular basis.](#)

Part of the reason the nation became as productive as it did in the last decades of the nineteenth century was because of a flood of immigrants from southern and eastern Europe. Students can identify who migrated, why they came, how people found work, where they lived, and how they encountered this foreign country. Students can address the questions: **Who came to the United States at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth century? Why did they come? What was their experience like when they arrived? How did their entry into the labor market influence wages?** They can also learn about the long hours, poor wages, unhealthy work environments, and lack of regulation on child labor, which according to author Upton Sinclair, amounted to *The Jungle* for the working-class. This system of labor and social organization was justified by leading social scientists, who advocated Social Darwinism, or eugenics as scientific explanation and rationalization for treating workers poorly. Students examine the importance of social Darwinism as a justification for child labor, unregulated working conditions, and laissez-faire policies toward big business.

The plight of labor and immigrants was not ignored by everyone at the turn of the century: Progressives, or American reformers who sought to provide a safety net for the most vulnerable of Americans, started to advocate for the poor through opening settlement houses like Hull House in Chicago, or working as muckraking journalists like Ida Tarbell, exposing poor working conditions.

Progressives eventually advocated broader reforms in urban areas by encouraging the government to establish minimum working age requirements and passing the Pure Food and Drug Act, for example. Reformers also aligned themselves with workers themselves. Students can study the rise of the labor movement and understand the changing role of government in confronting social and economic challenges of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era. Students can review these shifts by considering the question: **How did the federal government affect the country's growth in the years following the Civil War?**

Despite suffering from unsafe working and living conditions, immigrant and native-born men and women sometimes found themselves freer from family and community control in urban centers. Socializing in public became the norm for working-class youth who had limited space where they lived, and the disparity between women's and men's wages gave rise to the practice of dating. The rise of commercialized entertainment such as movies, amusement parks, and dance halls fostered easier interaction among strangers.

Part of the reason this larger and more urban population could be sustained was because of major shifts in the country's geography and demography. Students focus on the developing West and Southwest between the 1890s and 1910s. Yet, in order for the west to be developed in this way, American Indians had to be once again relocated and removed in many situations. The American Indian wars, the creation of the reservation system, the development of federal Indian boarding schools, and the re-allotment of Native lands profoundly altered

1008 Native American social systems related to governance, family diversity, and
1009 gender diversity. Allotment entailed breaking up Native lands into privately held
1010 units (largely based on the Anglo-American model of the male-headed nuclear
1011 family). Boarding schools took Native children from their parents for years at a
1012 time in order to make them into proper citizens. Reading Chief Joseph's words of
1013 surrender to U.S. Army troops in 1877 helps students grasp the heroism and
1014 human tragedy that accompanied the conquest of this last frontier.

1015 In addition to learning about natives who were displaced for the development
1016 of the West, students study how the region was reconstructed to support the
1017 growing native and immigrant population. The great mines and large-scale
1018 commercial farming of the nation's heartland provided essential resources for the
1019 industrial development of the nation. Advances in farming technology made land
1020 more productive than ever before, but they also led to falling crop prices, which
1021 squeezed small-time farmers who had been struggling to stay afloat. Students
1022 can learn through case studies of events, for example the Chicago World's Fair
1023 of 1893, and identify the "modern" agricultural, industrial, and commercial
1024 development of the time. They can also describe the cause-and-effect
1025 relationships between climate, natural resources, population growth, and the
1026 scientific and technological advancements during this time period, and then apply
1027 their knowledge of these relationships to an analysis of the changing landscape
1028 in America around the turn of the century. One way farmers reacted to these
1029 technological and economic pressures was through organizing. Students can
1030 consider the political programs and activities of the Grange Movement and

Populists as examples of how farmers attempted to organize in the face of larger pressures. California also came to play an increasingly significant role in the national economy. The Gold Rush in California, the building of the transcontinental railroad, and agricultural labor in Hawaii and the mainland spurred Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Filipino, Hindu, and Sikh immigration to the United States. Agricultural production and the growth of the oil industry accounted for much of California's early economic growth. Asian farmers and laborers contributed to the development of irrigation systems and farming throughout the state. Families from Mexico increasingly provided the labor force for the cultivation of this region. Students study the social, economic, and political barriers encountered both by immigrants and American citizens of Mexican ancestry. Eventually the Chinese Exclusion Act (1882) and the Immigration Act of 1917 greatly limited Asian entry to the United States. California built the immigration station at Angel Island to implement restrictions on Asian admissions. Despite the government's eventual tightening of restrictions on immigration in the second decade of the twentieth century, immigrants played an essential role in developing the country as both an agricultural and industrial giant.

Literature can deepen students' understanding of the life of this period, including the immigrant experience portrayed in Willa Cather's *My Antonia* and O. E. Rolvaag's *Giants in the Earth*; life in the slums portrayed in Jacob Riis's books; the poems, journals, and journalism of Walt Whitman; and Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*, unsurpassed as a sardonic commentary on the times.

Sidebar: Defining American Citizenship

To understand the sweeping changes that are covered in this period of American history, students consider the ways in which the quests for liberty and freedom have transformed the American populace. The course pays close attention to the opportunities and challenges that have confronted our diverse society. Teachers weave in the recurrent theme of citizenship and voting by emphasizing how these rights and privileges have been contested and reshaped over time. Starting with the freedoms outlined by the framers, students examine the many contributions of Americans seeking to expand civil rights across the country—to move forward in our continuing struggle to become a more perfect union.

Students learn what it means to be a good citizen (obeying laws), a participatory citizen (voting, jury duty, advocating causes) and a socially just citizen (community service, standing up for rights of others). Students will also learn about the process by which people not born in the United States can become citizens, the history of immigration in the United States, and the contributions of immigrants in our country. This analysis of the naturalization process will provide an understanding of the immigration process, enhance students' tolerance of and respect for others, help students develop an appreciation for the diversity of our country, and reinforce lessons of citizenship. Finally, students can participate in service-learning projects that engage them in the democratic process such as planning and participating in such activities as

mock elections, associated student body elections and meetings, the naturalization process, voter registration, community service, and National History Day.

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California Department of Education
December 2015